

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192127
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLSWING

APPROVED BY AF/C:WLSWING

AF/W:RGHOUDEK (SUBST.)

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O 292044Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192127

LIMDIS, FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUJUMBURA 0851 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO KIGALI JUL 22.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0851

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, BY

SUBJ: BURUNDI SECURITY SERVICE ORDERS EXPULSION OF AMERICAN
HEAD OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

SUMMARY: LEONARD ROBINSON HEAD OF SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST MISSION HAS BEEN SERVED BY SECURITY
SERVICE (SURETE) WITH AN EXPULSION ORDER REQUIRING
HIM TO LEAVE BURUNDI BY JULY 29. HE BELIEVES MOVE
PROMPTED BY A RWANDA TUTSI PASTOR WHO HAS CAUSED
DIFFICULTIES TO MISSION AND ACCUSED ROBINSON OF
PRO-HUTU ANTI-TUTSI ACTIVITIES AND INTENTIONS.
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ROBINSON IS TRYING TO APPEAL DECISION AND WE
PLAN TO ENQUIRE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 21,
RWANDAN AMBASSADOR SYLVESTRE KAMALI TOLD ME THAT
LEONARD ROBINSON, HEAD OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

MISSION IN BURUNDI, WHO ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MISSION ACTIVITIES IN RWANDA, HAD BEEN SERVED WITH EXPULSION ORDER EARLIER SAME DAY. KAMALI SAID ORDER WAS BASED ON ADVENTIST PLAN TO BUILD UNIVERSITY IN RWANDA WHERE THEY HAVE MANY MORE CHURCH MEMBERS THAN IN BURUNDI.

2. I CALLED ON ROBINSON WHO LIVES CLOSE BY BELGIAN EMBASSY. HE CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF EXPULSION ORDER AT 1500 HOURS. IT ORDERED HIM TO LEAVE IN EIGHT DAYS, THAT IS, BY JULY 29. HE SAID THAT AFTER 35 YEARS IN AREA HE WAS SHOCKED BY EXPULSION ORDER AND HAD BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO APPEAL FOR REVERSAL. HE INTENDED TO SOUND OUT HIS LOCAL CONTACTS INCLUDING CHIEF OF STATE PROTOCOL BUT FELT THAT IN MEANTIME HE MUST PACK HIS BAGS AND BE PREPARED TO LEAVE (FOR RWANDA) IF APPEAL UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. ROBINSON EXPLAINED PROBABLE GENESIS OF PROBLEM ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. A RWANDAN TUTSI PASTOR OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, PHINEAS NSENGIYUMVA, RESIDENT IN BURUNDI, HAD LONG BEEN A PROBLEM AND WAS NO DOUBT BEHIND THHIS MOVE.
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B. PHINEAS HATED THE HUTUS AND FEARED THEY WERE OUT TO KILL HIM. HE HAD ALSO TRIED TO HAVE ROBINSON REMOVED FROM HEAD OF MISSION SO THAT HE, PHINEAS, COULD TAKE OVER.

C. PHINEAS HAD BEEN GRANTED MAXIMUM LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM RELIGIOUS DUTIES (5 YEARS) SO HE COULD SERVE AS JUDGE IN RWANDA. HE HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO SPEND WEEKENDS IN BUJUMBURA ALTHOUGH ASSIGNED TO GITEGA AS ADVENTIST EQUIVALENT OF BISHOP BECAUSE HIS WIFE APPARENTLY SUFFERED FROM ALTITUDE AT GITEGA. PHINEAS HAD REVERSED THIS ARRANGEMENT BY SPENDING ONLY WEEKENDS AT GITEGA. HE WAS RESENTFUL WHEN COUNSELED THAT THIS REVERSE OF ARRANGEMENT WAS UNSATISFACTORY.

D. CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 16 REMOVED PHINEAS FROM HIS POSITION AND ADVENTISTS OFFERED HIM A BURSARY IN CAMEROUN FOR 1 OR 2 YEARS. THIS PROPOSED SOLUTION, ACCORDING TO ROBINSON, WAS COMMUNICATED TO DIRECTOR OF BURUNDI SURETE,

COMMANDANT TERENCE NTAKIROKORA, WHO SAID IT WAS A GOOD IDEA AND IT WOULD BE DOING A FAVOR TO EVERYBODY TO GET RID OF PHINEAS.

E. MEANWHILE PHINEAS HAD HAD A NUMBER OF LETTERS WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT BAGAZA CLAIMING (FALSELY ACCORDING TO ROBINSON) THAT ROBINSON HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM TANZANIA AT AN EARLIER DATE, THAT HE WAS PRO-HUTU AND ANTI-TUTSI AND THAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING HUTU EXILES TO INVADE BURUNDI.

F. ROBINSON ASSUMED THAT EXPULSION ORDER WAS ISSUED AT BAGAZA'S INSTRUCTIONS ON BASIS
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OF THESE LETTERS WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR REVERSAL OF POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF SURETE.

4. I BELIEVE THAT ROBINSON'S CASE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT HELPED BY INTERVENTION IN HIS BEHALF BY HEAD OF RWANDA IMMIGRATION SERVICE WHO RECENTLY VISITED BUJUMBURA AND OBTAINED REVERSAL OF EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST TWO RWANDANS. HE ALSO PUT IN A STRONG GOOD WORD FOR ROBINSON (COMMENT: "WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE".)

5. I TOLD ROBINSON I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIS BURUNDI CONTACTS ON A POSSIBLE SOLUTION. MEANWHILE I WOULD TRY TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER MUGANGA AND TELL HIM (IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT) I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT SINCE I WOULD CERTAINLY BE EXPECTED TO EXPLAIN TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, EXPULSION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE192127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLSWING
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0331
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaaegp.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bae1f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1978386
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURUNDI SECURITY SERVICE ORDERS EXPULSION OF AMERICAN HEAD OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS SUMMARY: LEONARD ROBINSON HEAD OF SEVENTH DAY
TAGS: PINS, CASC, BY, (ROBINSON, LEONARD)
To: OUAGADOUGOU BAMAKO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bae1f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014